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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/649,671  
Applicant : Y. HIRAIWA et al  
Filed : August 28, 2003  
Art Unit : 2186  
Examiner : Unassigned  
Docket No. : ASA-1154  
Customer No. : 24956

Commissioner for Patents  
Mail Stop DD  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)**  
**UNDER § 1.97 AND § 1.98**

Sir:

1. This IDS should be considered:

(a) when filed within three months of the filing date of the present application, or within three months of the filing date of the National Stage as set forth in § 1.491 in an international application, or before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits, whichever occurs last;

(b) when filed before the mailing date of either a Final Rejection under § 1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under § 1.311, whichever occurs first and when 1(a) does not apply. For this purpose, there is included herein either a certification in section 4 below (included when indicated by a marked box), or a fee of \$180.00 (a Credit Card Payment Form in the amount of \$180.00 is enclosed, or if not see section 5 below);

(c) when filed prior to the payment of the Issue Fee, when 1(a)-(b) do not apply, and when a certification is

included in section 4 below (included when indicated by a marked box); then the Applicant(s) hereby petition(s) and request(s) consideration of this IDS, and provided herewith is a fee of \$180.00 (a Credit Card Payment Form in the amount of \$180.00 to cover the petition fee, or if not see section 5 below).

2. When 1(a)-(c) do not apply, then it is requested that this IDS be placed in the file.


3. Listing of the information submitted is on the attached Form PTO-1449, which forms a part of this IDS.

4. If a fee or additional fee is required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee or additional fee that may be required and credit any excess to Deposit Account No. 50-1417.

5. No explanation of relevancy is being provided for the documents because each is in the English language.

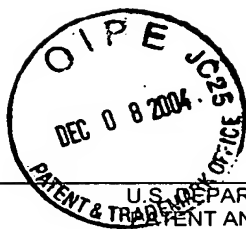
6. If the PTO determines that part(s) of the required content is inadvertently omitted, then it is requested that the Applicant(s) be given additional time and specific identification of such omission(s) to enable full compliance.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Reg. No 35061

FOR: John R. Mattingly  
Registration No. 30,293  
Attorney for Applicants

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Date: December 8, 2004

FORM PTO-1449  
(REV. 7-80)U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICEATTY. DOCKET NO.  
ASA-1154SERIAL NO.  
10/649,671**LIST OF DOCUMENTS CITED BY APPLICANT**  
(Use several sheets if necessary)APPLICANT  
Y. HIRAIWA et alFILING DATE  
August 28, 2003GROUP  
2186**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

* EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE (If Appropriate)
AA	6,735,646	05/11/04	Fujibayashi et al			
AB	2003/ 0055943	03/20/03	Kanai et al			
AC	2003/ 0135439	07/17/03	Yagishita			
AD	2003/ 0163457	08/28/03	Yano et al			
AE	2003/ 0187825	10/02/03	Tabata			
AF	2003/ 0220923	11/27/03	Curran et al			
AG						
AH						
AI						
AJ						
AK						

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

	DOCUMENT	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
						YES	NO
AL						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
AM						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
AN						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
AO						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
AP						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**OTHER DOCUMENTS** (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

AR		
AS		
AT		

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED